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INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Egypt

DATE DISTR. 16 MAY 1949

SUBJECT Termination of Tashnak Cooperation  
with the Rangavar Party

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1. A regional meeting of the Tashnak Party was held in Cairo, Egypt, on 9 and 10 April 1949. Source states that a resolution was adopted at this meeting to the effect that the Tashnak Party would cease cooperation with the Rangavar Party in directing Armenian community affairs in all the countries of the Middle East.
2. Prior to this meeting, the two parties had shared community positions on a proportional basis, mainly to preserve peace within the community and in order not to attract unfavorable attention of the local authorities. The Tashnaks maintain, however, that the Rangavar Party has permitted the infiltration of its party councils by Soviet agents. Source asserts, also, that the Tashnaks feel that their position within the various Armenian communities, and in the eyes of the various Middle Eastern governments, is so strong that they will now be able to force the Rangavars to accept a definitely inferior role in Armenian community affairs.
3. The Tashnak Party long has been the dominant political group in the Armenian communities of all the Middle Eastern countries, except Egypt. In Egypt, rich Armenian business leaders have made up much of the strength of the traditionally liberal, democratic, and bourgeois Rangavar Party and have succeeded in attracting many neutral Armenians to its ranks. However, the recent formation of the Rangavar, Hinchak, and Repatriationist coalition has worked to the advantage of the Tashnaks, and the intervention of the Egyptian Government has greatly strengthened the Tashnak position in the only Middle Eastern country in which its leadership was doubtful.\*
4. Source notes that there was a difference of opinion within the Tashnak ranks over the decision to cease all cooperation with the Rangavar Party. Some leaders felt that it would be better strategy to continue to compromise, while attempting to win over prominent Rangavars and neutrals to the Tashnak viewpoint, some of whom are said to be undecided in their attitudes toward the Soviet Union and repatriation.

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Source states, however, that pressure from the rank and file of the Tashnaks was strong for that Party to show tangible signs of opposition to the Ramgavar Party, and that proponents of that view prevailed in the regional council.

25X1A6a \*  Comment. The Armenian community elections, scheduled for March 1949, were postponed indefinitely, by order of the Egyptian Government.

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